

LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ADULT WOMEN'S AND MEN'S SOFTBALL 2006 REVISED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Mission Statement

The mission of Lee County Parks & Recreation Department is to enhance the quality of life for all Lee County residents by providing a highly trained staff to plan a broad variety of cost-effective leisure, recreation, and cultural activities and services.

Objective

The objective of the league is to promote and regulate, organize and conduct recreational softball to promote clean sportsmanship, fair play, and good community relationships.

League Administration

The staff of Lee County Parks and Recreation Department will make decisions and take action as needed in cases involving and including, but not limited to the following:

- 1.) Settle all disputes over player eligibility
- 2.) Enforce all league rules and regulations.
- 3.) Determine penalties for any disciplinary reasons.
- 4.) Assign and arrange all protest committees.

A reservation fee for practice will be \$4 per hour without lights and \$8 per hour with lights. Fields must be requested and paid for at least 24 hours in advance. Teams must come by the Parks and Recreation Department to pick up a rental receipt and pass and keep it with them when they show up for practice. Teams will be allowed four (4) free one-hour practices at any time before the season begin.

During tournament play, teams must be prepared to play on any given night.

Lee County Parks and Recreation Department reserves the right to change or amend any of these rules if it is deemed necessary for the benefit of the program.

Officials

An official's association approved by the Lee County Parks and Recreation Department will assign umpires. No team will be permitted to refuse any umpire assigned to any game.

Registration and Player Eligibility

- 1.) All players must be registered, by signing the team roster and paying the participation fee, (\$10 for county residents and \$15 for non-county residents), with the Parks and Recreation Department. Player roster must be completed and turned in by Tuesday, April 4, 2006. Entry fees are \$325 per county team and \$400 per non-county team. County teams must consist of at least 10 Lee County residents and not more than 5 non-county residents to be eligible for the \$325 entry fee. Team rosters are unlimited in all leagues.
- 2.) To be eligible to participate in any Lee County Parks and Recreation program, league, or division, the participant must live or work in Lee County.
- 3.) Players are allowed to participate in both Church and Industrial Leagues. Players will not be given preferential treatment when scheduling games or make-up games. Also, a game will not be held up waiting on a player from another league.
- 4.) If a player at any time signs two (2) rosters in the same league or signs two (2) industrial team rosters, the said player will be ineligible for any league play or tournament play sponsored by the Lee County Parks and Recreation Department.
- 5.) The adding or replacing of new players on a roster will be done only in the following cases:
 - A.) An emergency, such as a permanent injury to a player for the entire season with a written statement from a doctor
 - B.) Other considerations will be decided on, by the athletic staff, whose decisions will be final.
 - C.) **No player(s) will be added or replaced after the halfway point of the regular season schedule for any reason in any league.**
 - D.) **Industrial/Church teams may add a maximum of five (5) players to there rosters up to the halfway point of the regular season. An Industrial team cannot exceed the maximum number of three (3) players that are not employees of sponsoring industry.**

- 6.) If any manager or coach has a question concerning the eligibility of a player, she/he must comply with the protest procedure while the game is being played. If a player is declared to be ineligible by the athletic staff, the team she/he played for shall forfeit all games in which that player participated.
- 7.) All players must be 18 years old by August 1, 2006 to be eligible to participate in the softball program. **CHURCH AND WOMEN LEAGUE ONLY:** Players may be 16 years old by August 1, 2006 and must have a parent/guardian signature.

League Eligibility

Eligibility is determined at the time the rosters are submitted. Eligibility after rosters are submitted shall be governed by the respective league rules.

Church League

one All players must be active participants in the worship services of the church for which he/she is playing. If a church does not have enough participants to field complete team and wishes to combine with another church team, the Parks and Recreation Department will make a decision if to allow the teams to combine.

Pastors must sign their church team roster.

Industrial League

For a player to be declared eligible for industrial league play, the player must meet the following criteria:

- 1.) Player must work **a minimum of 20 hours per week and get paid by the sponsoring industry. NEW FOR 2006 (Exception: Each team is entitled to have a MAXIMUM of three (3) players on there roster that are not employees of sponsoring industry.)**
- 2.) Player must be a resident of Lee County or pay the \$15 fee if employed by the company and is a non-resident.
- 3.) If team and players are found to be in violation of these rules, penalty will be ejection from the league and the sponsor or team members may not participate in leagues sponsored by Lee County Parks and Recreation for 2 years from date of ejection and will include loss of all fees paid to recreation department.
- 4.) All industrial teams must submit roster signed by personnel department head verifying that personnel listed on sheet is a current employee of their organization.

Team Representative

Each team shall have a team representative who will be the official contact person for the team with Parks and Recreation Department.

- 1.) The team representative must make certain that all team players receive all information distributed by the Parks and Recreation Department and are aware of all league rules.
- 2.) The team representative is responsible for the accuracy of all information contained on the team roster and that all team members are registered.
- 3.) The team representative must always enforce all safety rules during games and practices.
- 4.) The team representative will be held responsible for the teams' actions before, during, and after the games.
- 5.) Team representatives will be permitted to participate if they are properly registered with the Parks and Recreation Department and are eligible for the league they are participating.
- 6.) **Only** team representatives/managers can confer with the umpire during a game.

Uniforms

- 1.) Players must wear alike shirts with 8" (eight) numbers on the back.
- 2.) Only tennis shoes or softball/baseball cleats are allowed. No metal cleats, barefeet, golf shoes, or track shoes.
- 3.) All teams must be in uniform by **start of the 5th regular season game**. Teams not in uniform may forfeit their game. Teams must protest the uniform policy before the game begins. Officials will make a decision on the protest before the game begins. If a player is out of uniform, she/he will not be eligible to play **unless OPPOSING Coach confirms to the umpire(s) that said player can play without protest**.
- 4.) No dangling jewelry will be allowed at any time throughout any game. Players will not be allowed to play until jewelry is removed!

Playing Rules

The USSSA Rules and Regulations for 2006 will govern play with the following exceptions and explanations:

- 1.) Home team will be listed last on the game schedule. Home team for tournament play will be done by flip of a coin.
- 2.) All equipment will be furnished by the team; such as bats, gloves, game balls, and uniforms.
- 3.) **No smoking in the dugout or on the playing field. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED AT ANY LEE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY.**
- 4.) Players shall remain in their respective dugout unless they are hitting or playing in the field.
- 5.) A twelve- (12) inch ball will be used for the women's softball league. A twelve (12) inch ball will be used for the men's softball league. Balls must be .44 core, with a compression of 400lbs. or less- restricted flight. The Sanctioning Association stamp must be visible on the ball.
- 6.) Each team is responsible for providing the game balls. If softball other than a .44 core is being used, a team warning will be issued. If an illegal ball is used a second time, the game will be forfeited. An umpire will check the ball at the beginning of each inning and prior to starting play when a ball is replaced due to a foul ball, home run, etc.
- 7.) Teams must have nine (9) eligible players to begin the game or a forfeit will be declared. If nine (9) players are present at game time, the game will start. If the tenth player arrives after the game has started, she/he must be entered at the bottom of the lineup and play one turn on defense before getting a turn at bat.
- 8.) A regulation game will consist of seven (7) innings or a 65-minute maximum, whichever comes first. There will be a 65-minute time limit on all games, and **no new inning will begin after 65 minutes.** For example, if you are in the middle of an inning past the 65-minute time limit, you must finish it, **if the home team is losing, they must always get their turn at bat.** Once an inning has started and the 65-minute time limit has expired, that inning must be completed. If game is tied, the game will continue until a winner is determined. The scorekeepers will have the

official time. The Clock/Timer will **start** on the **first pitch**. The Clock will only stop on injuries that require emergency help or if a protest is being filed so that the umpires can sign the scorebook. Deliberate Delays by the Offense or Defense will result in strikes or balls being called by the umpire.

- 9.) The Run Rule has been eliminated. Game will consist of 7 innings or 65 minutes.
- 10.) **(Women's League)** - A ten (10) minute grace period will be allowed on the first game of the evening only, before a forfeit is declared. Game time is forfeit time for subsequent games. **(Men's League)** – Game time is forfeit time, to include first game.
- 11.) Please do not dig out the batter boxes. Players should set their feet or toes in, not dig.
- 12.) In case of a tie for the regular season championship, the champion will be determined by referring to head to head competition. If the teams are still tied, a play-off game will determine the regular season champion. All other placements will be determined by the flip of a coin.
- 13.) Each team will be allowed to hit a total of 5 over-the-fence homeruns per game. Any over-the-fence homeruns hit after the 5th will be ruled an out. The batter that hits the homerun only needs to touch 1st base and all runners on base can walk off and return to the dugout.
- 14.) **(Women's League)** A courtesy runner will be allowed for any player that is injured or has a health condition that the department has been made aware of prior to the game. The department will need a written statement from a doctor for any health conditions. The courtesy runner must be the player that made the previous out before the courtesy runner is needed. **(Men's Leagues)** – Each team may use one (1) courtesy runner per inning, courtesy runner may only run one (1) time per inning. The courtesy runner must be the player that made the last out. If courtesy runner is going to be used in the first inning and no outs have been made, then the runner must be the player that is in the last position in the batting order.
- 15.) You will not be allowed to carry your bat with you around the bases at any point or time during the game.

Suspended Game: If weather interferes with play so that a game cannot be completed, the game will be continued at a later date with the lineup and batting order the same and all situations identical to the

moment of
supervisor and

suspension. This decision will be made by the field
umpire.

Rain Delay:

If there is a delay in a game due to weather, managers are to advise players not to leave the park until the game has been officially suspended. (Usually, a wait of 15 minutes to see if weather conditions improve.)

In case a game is suspended in progress, five (5) complete innings, (4 1/2 innings if the home team is ahead), will constitute a regulation game.

Inclement Weather: A decision will be made concerning cancelled games by **3:00 PM**.

Please call **774-7999**. Please inform your players of this number. Do not have them call the office, office personnel need the lines to be clear. If inclement weather occurs after 3:00 PM, teams must report to the field.

MAKE-UP GAMES WILL BE SCHEDULED BY THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO BE PLAYED AS TIME AND WEATHER PERMITS. ANY DAY OF THE WEEK WILL BE USED IF NECESSARY.

During the league tournament and county tournament, teams should be prepared to play on any night.

There will be a time limit for all tournament games including championship game.

County Tournament

Each regular season champion, regular season runner-up, and tournament champion will advance to the county tournament. If the regular season champion and the division tournament champion or the regular season runner-up and the division tournament champion are the same team, the third place team in regular season play will advance to the county tournament. **Will consist of 16 teams.**

Trophies

Trophies will be awarded as follows:

Regular Season

1st Place - 15 individuals and team trophy
2nd Place - team trophy only

Tournament Seasons

1st Place – 15 individuals and team trophy
2nd Place - team trophy only

Protest Procedure

- 1.) No protest will be considered on a judgment call.
- 2.) Protest must be made when infraction occurs, entered into the scorebook at that time and signed by the officials.

- 3.) A written statement by the protester must be turned in to the Athletic office along with a \$20 protest fee by 5:00 PM the next business day for the protest to be valid.
- 4.) Protest concerning eligibility of a player may be done at any point during the game, but once game is complete no protest will be allowed.
- 5.) Any protest disallowed, the \$20 protest fee will go to the Recreation Department General Fund. Protests that are held to be valid will be refunded the \$20 protest fee.
- 6.) Team managers or coaches are the only persons that can put forth a protest.
- 7.) All decisions or rule interpretations made by the Parks and Recreation staff will be final.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- 1.) **First Offense:**
Any player that verbally abuses or shows any obscene gestures to any attendant, official, or other players or spectators, or is ejected from a game will automatically be suspended for the next two or more regular season or tournament games, as deemed appropriate by the Parks and Recreation staff. Players are to leave the gym/field within two (2) minutes or the game will be forfeited.
- 2.) **Second Offense:**
Any player that is ejected from a game for any unsportsmanlike conduct will automatically be suspended for the next three or more regular season or tournament games, as deemed appropriate by the Parks and Recreation staff and said player will pay a \$40.00 reinstatement fee. Players are to leave the gym/field within two (2) minutes or the game will be forfeited.
- 3.) **Third Offense:**
Any player that is ejected from a game for any unsportsmanlike conduct for a third offense will be **suspended** from the league for the remainder of the regular season and tournament seasons. Players are to leave the gym/field within two (2) minutes or the game will be forfeited.
- 4.) **Flagrant Offenses**
Where a violation is considered to be flagrant behavior such as, (1) repeated offenses; (2) threats of bodily harm; (3) bodily harm to another; (4) drugs or alcohol related; (5) other offenses deemed flagrant by the Parks and Recreation staff; the violator will be indefinitely suspended from participating in any Lee County Parks and Recreation athletic programs. The suspension will range from 18 months to permanent suspension based on the decision of the Parks and Recreation staff. To be reinstated, an individual will

be required to pay a \$75 reinstatement fee
and Recreation staff.

and must meet with the Parks

- 5.) **Taunting/Baiting Opponent** – “Zero Tolerance”
Minimum two (2) game suspension with Maximum of expulsion from
league without reimbursement of fees.

FORFEITS

Any team that forfeits three (3) times during the regular season will not be able to
participate in **ANY** post season tournaments.

REMINDER:

NO DRUGS OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE ALLOWED AT ANY LEE
COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITY OR PROGRAM.

League Distribution

Teams that finish first and second in their league the previous year will
automatically be moved to the next league up the following year and teams that
finished last will drop to the league below them. This procedure will be taken on
a year to year basis depending on the number of teams we have registered in a
certain league. Our objective is to make all of the Industrial leagues as fair and as
competitive as possible.

